

3-20-1849

Letter from Joseph Newson to James B. Finley

Joseph Newson

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Recommended Citation

Newson, Joseph, "Letter from Joseph Newson to James B. Finley" (1849). *Finley Letters*. 638.
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Christianburg
March 27

3
Rev James B Finley
Columbus
Ohio

Recd
March 29
Answered

Addison March 28th 1849

Dear Love to Family

Dear Brother I sit down this morning to address a few lines to you to let you know that you are not forgotten altho I admit I have neglected to write as frequently as I should. Through the mercy of God we are all in good health this morning for which we trust we feel thankful to the donor of all our mercies.

We are living in Addison (called Christianburg) when you were in this country. I have been much better satisfied than I expected with my experiment.

The Lord has been better to me than my fears. Notwithstanding things were in a disturbed state on the ct we have had some prosperity. Ninety eight have given us their names as probationers since the commencement of the year. And I think there is a prospect of a still greater increase.

You may have some idea of the disturbed state of the Church on the ct when I inform you that we had eight appeals before our first quarterly meeting from the closing of last year all of which were sustained and the appellants restored to their membership in the Church.

The membership on the ct have been

reduced from a little rising eight hundred
to four hundred and ninety six since & traveled
here before a number of our old friends
have gone to their resting place since our
labours closed on this at before amongst
that number is old br Jacob Arney and I
would just say here that there has been no notice
of his death in the Advocate or yet and it
is the request of the friends that some notice should
be taken and that you be requested to write his
obituary I will give you in the close of
this letter all the items I could gather from his
friends It is requested that you should make some
allusion to the M Church near his house in which
you held the first meeting and which is said to
have been the first Methodist Church in this country
altho it has been published in the Advocate & I
believe by Mr Hooper that the Mector Church is the
oldest this matter you can give correctly of
course You knew father Arney long I need
not tell you he was a good man and full of
the Holy Ghost He died as he lived His disease
was said to be bilious Cholera His wife thinks
it was brought on by drinking to large a quantity
of Cold water when warm He left the world
triumphantly His aged widow joined the church
at our last quarterly meeting a week ago which was
held at Fremont She has professed religion for
some time but has never before united herself to

my Church Jacob Arney was born in
the State of North Carolina March 18th 1778
and died Oct 20th 1848 experienced religion in the
twenty second year and joined the Church in his
twenty fifth He left Carolina and emigrated to
Kentucky where he remained for a few years

In 1807 he was united in marriage to Nancy
Fruitt daughter of Mrs John Fruitt Local preacher
in the M & Church He lived happily with the
companion of his youth until the first of Feb
1819 when she was removed by death He was
afterward married to Mrs Elizabeth Davis who is
now left a widow to mourn his loss

When he first moved to Ohio he settled in
Mohanna where there were nothing but Indians
in the place He settled on Storms Creek where
he ended his days about 34 years ago

He served the Church acceptably in the
capacity of leader 13 years He helped to build
the first Church in the bounds of what is now
called Fremont Co (This you know about)

His house was always the home of the stranger

I need not tell you the unlearned
he was a man of more than ordinary mind you knew
him

My sheet is about full little
Truly has commenced to spell appears to learn quite
fast Write to me soon direct to Cheshire
Champaign Co Ohio We all wish to be remembered by
you in your prayers, yours with much respect
L Overton